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Summary record of the 10th meeting
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Chair: Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair) (Spain)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/71/76-E/2016/55, A/71/190, A/71/210, A/71/215, A/71/217, A/71/376, A/71/537 and A/71/539; A/C.2/71/2)

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(j) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*) (A/71/256)

1. **Mr. Amer** (Israel) said that it was customary during the Jewish New Year, which coincided with the current meeting, to say "let us be the head and not the tail". That should be the mindset of the Second Committee, which should strive to move forward not backwards at the current session.

2. The meaning and breadth of sustainable development had changed significantly since the international community had first set out to define "the future we want". The scope of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was wide and diverse, and the approach was multidimensional and comprehensive. His country had been working to prepare the groundwork for implementing the 2030 Agenda in partnership with the private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders. The key to a sustainable and prosperous future was the talent and creativity of members of society whose skills could be harnessed to invest in education, science and technology.

3. His country intended to submit its biennial draft resolution on entrepreneurship for development at the current session. The draft resolution highlighted the important contribution of entrepreneurship to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to decent work, economic growth, quality education and reduced inequalities.

4. Entrepreneurship was not only a matter of financial profits but also social gains. Entrepreneurs were innovators and problem-solvers who found local solutions to global problems and could help overcome many sustainable development challenges associated with renewable energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. Entrepreneurship also facilitated progress with such cross-cutting issues as gender equality, the empowerment of women and young people, and with the promotion of a multi-stakeholder approach.

5. Paying tribute to the late former President and Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, he said that Mr. Peres had been one of his nation's founding fathers, a source of inspiration for Israelis and a symbol of hope and peace. He had never stopped thinking of the future in the belief that the most important accomplishments still lay ahead.

6. **Mr. Husny** (Maldives) said that the recent high-level political forum on sustainable development had rightly provided all countries, including the most vulnerable ones such as small island developing States, with an opportunity to reflect and share best practices regarding means of implementation, and to begin follow-up and review work. His country intended to present a voluntary national review at the 2017 high-level political forum.

7. The 2030 Agenda was notable for its focus on countries requiring targeted attention. In that regard, the Second Committee was the most important space for the follow-up to the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), which specifically addressed small island developing States. As one such country, Maldives required increased capacity-building across the board, especially in the area of data collection and analysis, in order to support the implementation, follow-up and review of both the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. The shortage of data for many indicators constrained his Government's ability to collect and analyse baseline data, and a limited capacity to carry out that important activity was one of the major barriers to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Climate change was the greatest challenge to sustainable development in Maldives, which had been one of the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The imminent entry into force of that instrument was merely the first step towards the fulfilment of the commitments enshrined therein. For its part, his Government had diversified energy sources to reduce the reliance on imported fuel and the attendant fluctuations in price and availability, and was taking the lead in the scaling up of renewable energy and the adoption of low-carbon technologies.

9. His Government also supported the decade for sustainable tourism, one of the central priorities for small island developing States. As sustainable tourism was key to economic growth in his country, his Government would reach out to existing and new partners to ensure that the tourism industry would engage with local communities, protect cultural heritage and provide environmental conservation.

10. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that his country had developed a long-term development vision reflected in the "Katún Nuestra Guatemala 2032" national development plan. While the involvement of all social actors and the international community would be needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, his country faced factors that undermined development and were beyond its control, such as natural disasters of which the majority were closely related to climate change and caused large numbers of deaths. Disaster risk was thus one of the most important issues to be addressed at the regional and international levels.

11. Central American countries, especially those in the dry corridor, had recurrently been badly affected by El Niño and La Niña. Emergency investment was no longer sufficient and stable long-term investment was needed to boost resilience and help people to escape the cycle of hunger resulting from extended droughts followed by floods. His Government therefore welcomed the forthcoming twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which would continue the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

12. Guatemala would continue its efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation as one of 19 megadiverse nations and the host of one of the largest concentrations of biodiversity. For example, at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, a proposal presented by Guatemala and co-sponsored by Argentina, Brazil and Kenya on the inclusion of the genus *Dalbergia* in Appendix II of the Convention had been adopted by consensus and would help to prevent illicit trafficking in rosewood.

13. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that one year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the challenges posed by the global economic and geopolitical situation, and in particular the global refugee crisis, meant that it could not truly be said that genuine progress had been made. The high-level political forum should therefore confront those challenges frankly and transparently, and put in place mechanisms to assist developing States suffering from crises and special situations. The ongoing crisis in her

country demonstrated clearly that there could be no development without peace and security, and also that foreign intervention was a major obstacle to development.

14. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, all States must fulfil their obligations under Security Council resolutions on combating the financing of terrorism. A recent report prepared by the Office of the Resident Representative in Syria in conjunction with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had shown how the unilateral coercive economic measures being imposed on her country by the United States and the European Union were having a negative impact on all Syrians across various sectors, and also impeding the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Rather than imposing such measures, the international community should provide support for the Syrian Arab Republic in its war against terrorism and deliver humanitarian assistance to its people without politicization or double standards. Among other things, that would decrease the number of Syrians who were being forced to contemplate emigration.

15. Her delegation also took issue with the finding of the United Nations Environment Programme presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/71/217), namely that a change in the original assessment of the physical damage to the environment from that oil slick was not warranted.

16. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that his country was committed to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whose adoption would provide a new impetus to multilateral cooperation in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

17. His country welcomed the achievements of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" 2005-2015, under which a record number of sustainable water management initiatives had been launched. The outcome of the Decade had clearly demonstrated the need to further share experience and best practices in the context of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6. He trusted that the launch of a second water decade would not be used to politicize the discussions on water use.

18. Regarding universal access to energy resources, the Russian Federation supported further development of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the planned creation of an organization with the same name in Vienna and the continuation of its Advisory Board. His country was prepared to actively support the goals of the initiative, including through the involvement of Russian energy companies.

19. It was important to balance international energy development with the specific interests and needs of all countries. The solution to "energy poverty" lay in a balanced approach based on the effective use of traditional energy resources and the development of renewable energy sources.

20. Noting the progress made in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, he said that the activities of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, including its steering committee as well as global and regional partnership dialogues, should be based on a clear plan aimed at developing effective practical measures to encourage existing partnerships and attract new participants. In that context, his delegation welcomed the creation of a partnership reporting template and the holding of a midterm review in 2019 to evaluate progress made in implementing the priorities of the Samoa Pathway. At the same time, such an evaluation must take into account the goals reflected in the national strategies of small island developing States.

21. Significant work had been done by the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. The rise in the intensity and number of natural disasters required decisive measures, including first and foremost strengthened national capacity in responding to emergency situations. It was therefore vital to undertake comprehensive programmes to train personnel, build the capacities of the emergency response services and improve technology transfer. The Russian Federation was already providing such assistance to the most vulnerable developing countries. One example was its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme on a multi-year project with a budget of $7.5 million to assist all 14 Pacific island States with disaster preparedness.

22. Effectively countering the negative impact of climate change was a key factor in the achievement of

sustainable development. The adoption of the Paris Agreement had been a global milestone which reflected the will of the international community to work together to address that global challenge. The regulations to be drawn up for implementing the Paris Agreement would directly determine the effectiveness of the post-2020 climate regime. For its part, the Russian Federation was currently preparing a national plan to improve its regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

23. Welcoming the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in May 2016 in Nairobi, he looked forward to the United Nations Environment Programme, under the leadership of its new Executive Director, continuing to effectively contribute to the implementation of the environmental components of sustainable development in accordance with its existing mandate.

24. **Mr. AlGhunaim** (Saudi Arabia) said that a collective effort to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries was crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Different countries had different needs, and the specificities of different countries' national legislations should be respected. For developing countries, the priorities were overcoming poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease. The national Vision 2030 plan for economic diversification took into account his country's Arab Islamic foundations, geostrategic location and investment capacities, and envisioned qualitative leaps forward in energy, industry, health, education and tourism, with a view to increasing non-petroleum revenues and employment opportunities.

25. The Kingdom was a major development donor and partner, particularly for developing States that were undergoing crises. Over the past four decades, it had provided over $100 billion in non-refundable assistance and concessional loans to some 95 countries. It had also contributed $1 billion to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and forgiven some $6 billion in development debt.

26. While his delegation was pleased by the adoption of the Paris Agreement, it stressed that efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions should not be prejudicial to any particular source of energy. For its part, the energy industry of Saudi Arabia was investing in carbon sequestration and separation techniques.

27. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that climate change caused by human activities had led to global warming. Far-reaching curative measures were therefore required to protect the climate for future generations. Two important milestones had been reached in the past 13 months: Sustainable Development Goal 13 on fighting climate change; and the legally binding universal Paris Agreement, which his country had already signed and for which the instrument of ratification had been deposited in September 2016. The political will behind the entry into force of the Agreement in November 2016 augured well for its effective implementation.

28. Although his country's contribution to global warming was negligible, it was, as a developing country, highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and had recently been affected by floods and landslides. Other parts of the country had been affected by drought. Those extreme weather events had harmed the agricultural sector, threatened food security and more generally hampered sustainable development. Developed countries should honour their commitments to developing countries in the areas of financial assistance, transfers of technology and capacity-building in order to tackle climate change.

29. Adaptation was the best way to address climate change. Accordingly, his Government had developed a national climate change adaptation strategy and policy. It had also identified priority areas for mitigation. Specifically, the energy, transport and industrial sectors had a high greenhouse gas reduction potential. His Government was also making efforts to develop renewable energy sources and implement energy conservation measures in order to protect the climate for future generations.

30. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that the achievement of sustainable development would require concerted action by all Governments as well as stakeholders and partners. To leave no one behind, the poor needed economic opportunities and innovative efforts. Investment should be steered towards sustainable practices, and countries that had successfully contributed to sustainable development should be given incentives. Entrepreneurship, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises could help the poor to become self-reliant and sustainable development actors. Enhanced education and training would also address

challenges such as skills shortages and management capacity. Integrated knowledge and skills might be the key to overcoming those challenges and achieving economic progress.

31. Global partnership in the area of the means of implementation was important for translating sustainable development commitments into tangible outcomes. In that regard, new partnerships and innovative sources of financing in the private sector and civil society could play a complementary role in job creation and community empowerment; the relevant political structure should be open enough to include non-State actors; and the financing mechanism involved should be coupled with knowledge sharing, transfers of technology and better market access for developing countries and least developed countries, as well as for middle-income countries, which faced many challenges, not least the recent global economic turmoil.

32. The three dimensions of sustainable development should be mainstreamed into the United Nations system so that it could deliver capacity-building to developing countries. All stakeholders, especially those that delivered productive capacity, should also be involved. Furthermore, a focus on data would make it possible to develop policies and strategies that integrated the three pillars of sustainable development.

33. To combat climate change, action taken before 2020 would lay a foundation for the implementation stage after that date. Developed countries should continue to reduce emissions, provide financial support, technological cooperation and capacity-building. Meanwhile, developing countries should contribute more based on their national capacities and priorities. Addressing climate change also meant protecting and conserving marine resources. Indonesia and neighbouring countries had therefore launched the Coral Triangle Initiative to conserve the marine environment and increase the number of marine protected areas.

34. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) said that climate change was a complex challenge that undermined the efforts of the international community to achieve sustainable development and caused increasingly frequent natural disasters. The United Nations should therefore coordinate cooperation on risk reduction and the mitigation of the consequences of natural disasters, in particular through the Sendai Framework, under which early warning systems should be improved, investments in disaster risk reduction should be increased, and financial assistance should be given to developing countries.

35. According to the 2030 Agenda, water was the most essential element of life and the main component of development. The Sustainable Development Goals and the related targets addressed water-related challenges. That was a positive shift, but it also set the bar very high. Especially important in that context were the lack of, or unequal access to, drinking water, basic sanitation and sound hygiene practices.

36. Significant progress could be achieved when water challenges were prioritized. Moreover, more global monitoring, reporting and information-gathering would drive action at the political level. The nexus approach to water resources would develop and share knowledge of global challenges and policy responses. Inter-agency and intergovernmental coordination would also lead to a less fragmented international water community and advance efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

37. The international community must make coordinated efforts and adopt both urgent and long-term measures, especially when water resources were shared between such sectors as health care, agriculture, energy and navigation, and when groundwater was shared between communities and countries.

38. A new decade devoted to water issues should focus on the integrated management of water resources; the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects; and the enhancement of cooperation and partnership at all levels with a view to achieving internationally agreed goals, especially those contained in the 2030 Agenda. A draft resolution in that regard would shortly be presented for consideration by the Second Committee. More than 145 countries had already sponsored the draft resolution and he hoped that more countries would join that list.

39. Lastly, he noted that a high-level symposium on the Sustainable Development Goals and the related targets, geared to ensuring no one was left behind in access to water and sanitation, had been held in Tajikistan to promote the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015, and sustainable development.

40. **Mr. Al-Sheeb** (Qatar) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/71/212) offered grounds for optimism. Some pioneering sustainable development initiatives had already been implemented under the Qatar National Vision 2030, with a particular focus on quality education for all as a key component of its human resources investment strategy.

41. The escalation of conflicts around the world and the resulting refugee crises posed major challenges to development. There was a particular need to combat violent extremism and to create societies where the rule of law prevailed, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 16. In that context, his country had been involved in establishing the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies.

42. In addition to taking the initiative in establishing the Global Dryland Alliance to combat desertification and drought, Qatar also stressed the need for new and renewable energy sources to address climate change.

43. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the global capitalist hegemonic model continued to generate serious economic, social and environmental imbalances. It was an unsustainable system: the 80 richest individuals had as much wealth as roughly half of the people in the world. Furthermore, 1.3 billion people lived on less than a dollar a day and could not meet their basic needs and therefore could not exercise their human rights. The global statistics for the previous year were alarming: 6 million children had died from preventable or curable diseases; 795 million people were undernourished; and there were 65 million displaced persons. Wars caused by geopolitical interests prevented developing countries from controlling their own natural resources.

44. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, leaders of developing countries had made a commitment to implementing a different and genuinely inclusive development model. However, political will would be required, especially on the part of the more developed countries, to develop strategies to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development while recognizing that States were responsible for their own well-being. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources was the inalienable right of countries. They should be able to draw direct benefits from those resources without the involvement of transnational corporations. The proceeds of those resources could then be fairly redistributed among the population and could also assist with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

45. At the recent high-level political forum, his Government had been able to share its experiences of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as a result of a commitment at the highest level and from all government institutions, in spite of adverse political, economic and climatological conditions. Under his country's development plan, a combined strategy of economic and social development was being implemented with respect for nature at all times. Whereas in many countries social development was considered a cost and respect for nature a missed economic opportunity, in his country they were part of a holistic approach resulting from a commitment to the Venezuelan people made even before the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. His country's development model was human-centred and based on solidarity, justice, social inclusion, human rights and citizen participation. As part of a commitment to maintain social investment and achieve social happiness, 71.4 per cent of human and financial resources were devoted to social development.

46. Climate change was a global threat and his country had not escaped its consequences. Prolonged droughts and disrupted rainfall patterns had impacted the yield of agricultural areas and therefore food security. The Paris Agreement was therefore a welcome development.

47. A prerequisite for sustainable development was political stability and peace. The international community, and the Security Council in particular, bore the responsibility for preventing armed conflict while respecting the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of countries. War and terrorism were obstacles to sustainable development, as evidenced by the situation in countries in the Middle East and Africa. Colonialism and foreign occupation were also obstacles to sustainable development, as in the case of the State of Palestine.

48. **Ms. Loe** (Norway) said that it was unfortunate that the Committee was still addressing sustainable development as though it had only one dimension. In order for the Committee to deliver relevant political guidance to further the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it must find a way to address such issues in a more integrated manner.

49. Bearing in mind the need for a more integrated approach, she welcomed the fact that enough countries had now ratified the Paris Agreement for its entry into force. Climate change jeopardized the livelihoods not only of future generations but also many people currently populating the globe, particularly those in small island developing States. Rapid action was need to prevent climate change from undermining all other sustainable development efforts, which only further demonstrated the indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change also aggravated poverty and natural disasters, and increased the risk of conflict and mass migration, particularly in fragile States. Owing to its scale, speed and unpredictability, climate change must be recognized as a major global security challenge to be tackled with every tool currently available.

50. Peace was also fundamental for sustainable development. In the course of a few days, war and internal conflict could destroy what generations had worked to build. Furthermore, conflict drove large numbers of people away from their homes and livelihoods.

51. Achieving sustainable energy for all would not only contribute towards combating climate change but would also help to advance the agenda on poverty eradication, food security, clean water and sanitation, health, education, and the empowerment of youth and women. To that end, it was crucial to mobilize corresponding investments from private and commercial actors.

52. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that his country was one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Glaciers were melting at an accelerated rate, and local weather patterns were changing, affecting crop viability. The related challenges faced by small Andean farmers, communities living in forests, local fishermen and residents of city suburbs were forcing the Government to divert its limited resources.

53. Climate change threatened food safety, fisheries, water sources, biodiversity and ecosystems. Water was a resource that was extremely sensitive to the weather, with changes to precipitation patterns causing droughts and flooding, and glacial melting reducing the available amount of that vital resource. That had motivated Peru to participate actively in the Paris Agreement: his country had been the first in the region to ratify the instrument.

54. Recent dynamic economic growth in Peru would drive the transition towards a low-carbon economy and promote broad-based energy efficiency initiatives. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action, Peru had established a national climate change strategy that reflected its integrated and multisectoral commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It had also established a national forestry and climate change strategy with a long-term vision up to 2030.

55. In line with those strategies, sustainable green growth had been prioritized in environmental and social policies for economic development, taking into account such concepts as biological diversity, efficient waste management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

56. The Sendai Framework was a landmark agreement under which risk reduction spending was viewed as an investment in safeguarding populations against risk vulnerability for a more sustainable future. The Paris Agreement had similarly shown the close relationship between climate change and natural disasters. In turn, disaster risk management was a fundamental part of sustainable development, which explained its cross-cutting nature in the 2030 Agenda. Disaster risk management was State policy in Peru, owing to his country's vulnerable geographical location. For example, the 2015/2016 El Niño phenomenon had been one of the strongest since 1997. However, pursuant to the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council on the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon, existing national and local action plans had been updated with risk reduction measures that had safeguarded lives and infrastructure.

57. Given the increasing vulnerability of mountain-dwelling peoples, his country would promote sustainable development for mountain regions during the present session. Since 2001, the incidence of

poverty had been reduced from more than half of the country's population to less than one quarter. However, poverty rates remained especially high in mountain regions. As related challenges could overcome the capabilities of middle-income country such as Peru, the support of the international community would be required to assist the most disadvantaged populations.

58. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that her country would host the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference on 26 and 27 November 2016 under the auspices of the United Nations. The Conference would be held at the highest level and would bring together key stakeholders from Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, the private sector and civil society to engage in dialogue that emphasized the integrated and cross-cutting nature of sustainable transport. All modes of transport would be addressed as well as other transport-related issues such as energy, road safety and the financing of sustainable transport.

59. Drawing attention to the draft programme, information note and other background materials posted on the website for the forthcoming Conference, she said that it would contribute to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, while sustainable transport was not represented by a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal, it was directly linked to Goal 3 on health, Goal 7 on energy, Goal 9 on resilient infrastructure, Goal 11 on sustainable infrastructure and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

60. Lastly, noting that the Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan and the Department for Economic and Social Affairs would organize a briefing on the Global Sustainable Transport Conference on 20 October 2016, she encouraged all Member States, representatives of the United Nations system and other stakeholders to participate.

61. **Mr. Momeni** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country had set several national priorities and goals, including a transitional course towards a low-carbon and green economy, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In accordance with its intended nationally determined contributions submitted under the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, the Islamic Republic of Iran stood ready to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions, to ratify the Paris Agreement in 2017 and to host an international conference on combating sand and dust storms.

62. With a view to ensuring the universality of the 2030 Agenda, all bilateral, regional and multilateral actions must be complementary. However, Western Asia faced severe challenges to implementing the Agenda, such as poverty, land degradation, desertification, water scarcity, hot climate conditions, extensive drought, in addition to terrorism and extremist violence. Consequently, Governments from affected countries were being forced to spend limited national resources on fighting insecurity rather than implementing the Agenda.

63. His country's top priority remained eliminating poverty and hunger, and the successful negotiation of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be critical to an international environment enabling the full eradication of poverty. In particular, there should be more ambitious, inclusive and non-discriminatory measures, accompanied by effective international support and solidarity, to facilitate the implementation of the Agenda as a whole and Sustainable Development Goals 17 in particular. To that end, capacity-building, technology transfer, trade facilitation and access to financial resources should be provided, and countries should refrain from any form of unilateral or coercive financial or trade measures.

64. **Mr. Calvo** (Costa Rica) said that his country had ratified the Paris Agreement in October 2016, which, together with the first anniversary of the 2030 Agenda, represented milestones in making sustainable development a reality. The Committee must show decisive support for their implementation, and the strong political will embodied in those instruments must transform sustainable development.

65. An appropriate balance between the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development was integral to national development strategies and how international cooperation could be harnessed to meet domestic commitments. In that regard, all aspects of international cooperation must be strengthened, especially those required for developing countries to achieve sustainable development, and efforts must be directed at areas where the poor were located. The 2030 Agenda could not be implemented without giving due consideration to all States Members

of the United Nations, especially those with significant vulnerabilities and special challenges, such as middle-income countries.

66. Given the vagaries of climate change and its ensuing disastrous consequences, goals would require constant revision. Governments must promote domestic measures to prevent global temperatures from increasing by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, and economies must focus on extreme carbon reduction to achieve carbon neutrality. The close relationship between climate change and human rights must also be recognized, and the Committee must participate in the conversation on that topic.

67. His country, which had been promoting sustainable development for decades before that concept had been adopted by the United Nations, wished to become a green laboratory of best practices for the implementation of the related agreements. For example, in 2016 Costa Rica had used 100 per cent renewable energy for electricity production for more than 150 consecutive days, proving that it was possible to leave behind the dependency on fossil fuels. Furthermore, the Minister of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica had served as the President of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. His country would continue to promote consensus to move forward with the colossal yet essential work of promoting sustainable development.

68. **Mr. Tiare** (Burkina Faso) said that it had been recognized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that water was central to sustainable development. Furthermore, the comprehensive and interlinked role of water had been acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda, which demonstrated the connections between water and sanitation, on the one hand, and other areas such as health, food, energy, poverty elimination, economic productivity and access to education, on the other. While new and renewable sources of energy were considered significant energy supply resources in their own right, they were also key in facing such global challenges as universal access to energy, energy security and climate change, and ultimately in eliminating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Similarly, the linkages between entrepreneurship and sustainable development were well established. Entrepreneurship contributed towards economic growth and diversification. It drove the structural change and industrialization that led to open and lasting socioeconomic development.

69. However, there could be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development. Currently, the commitment to the core principle of inclusiveness challenged the international community to move beyond a focus on meeting immediate needs and to instead invest in enabling solutions that, over the medium- and long-term, lead to improved, sustainable and resilient outcomes in the lives and livelihoods of affected populations, including displaced and conflict-affected populations. In that context, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement demonstrated the commitment of the international community to manage and reduce risks while building resilience.

70. The recently elected President of Burkina Faso had already ensured the adoption of a National Economic and Social Development Plan, which encompassed economic transformation, institutional reform, administrative modernization, growth sector revitalization and development of human capital. The Plan prioritized 86 of the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, and was expected to make significant advances by 2020 in such areas as job creation and poverty reduction. The effective support of development partners and other international actors would be necessary for successful outcomes of that very ambitious Plan.

71. **Ms. Karabaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that her country's sustainable development policies had been guided by low-carbon development, resource conservation measures, green economy projects, and renewable and cost-effective sources of energy, and thus Kyrgyzstan had been able to lay a good foundation for the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. While Kyrgyzstan was a mountainous, landlocked developing country, it had demonstrated an excellent balance between economic development and environmental protection.

72. The transition from traditional energy sources to renewable and cost-effective ones was of paramount importance in Kyrgyzstan, as investing in green economy projects increased the country's agricultural yields and helped to ensure food security. National

energy security had already greatly improved over the past five years: hydropower was now used to generate clean and inexpensive electricity.

73. However, mountain ecosystems were very vulnerable to climate change. Glaciers in Kyrgyzstan were forecast to shrink in size by 30 to 40 per cent by 2025, and water availability in the region would decline by one third. Her Government therefore supported the cost-efficient use of water resources in all of Central Asia.

74. Climate change also caused irreparable harm to the biodiversity of mountain ecosystems. Under such threats, her country had authored initiatives to protect the endangered snow leopard population, for instance, and was presenting them to the States Members of the United Nations at various forums.

75. The remediation and safety and security of uranium waste and other radioactive and toxic materials remained an acute problem. The situation was aggravated by the fact that most of the tailing ponds were located in seismically active areas prone to mudflows and flooding, or near to river banks that formed the basis of the Central Asian water supply. As ineffective solutions would have a catastrophic impact on the lives and health of the millions of people living there, focused and coordinated work was needed under General Assembly resolution 68/218, entitled "The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia". The Government of Kyrgyzstan would host an international high-level forum within that framework in May and June 2017.

76. **Mr. Wu** (Singapore) said that in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and commitments to address climate change, countries must adapt solutions to their own national priorities and unique circumstances. As a small island city-State with limited natural resources, Singapore had adopted various approaches to improve energy efficiency in the industrial, household and transport sectors, including changing its primary means of power generation from fuel oil to natural gas and pricing energy at market cost to encourage its judicious use, all of which had led to a reduction in emissions. His country had also recently released a climate action plan outlining strategies to strengthen resilience to climate change. The action plan would guide efforts to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement.

77. Water supply constraints had been overcome through decades of continuous innovation, and desalination and water reclamation and recycling technologies had allowed his country to diversify its supply and meet demand. Those technologies were now being shared with other countries, and thus the constraints had been turned into strategic opportunities.

78. Collaborative partnerships were crucial for advancing sustainable development. Having previously been the beneficiary of loans to improve sanitation, Singapore was now providing technical assistance to developing countries in the areas of leadership and governance, sustainable cities, and water and sanitation solutions. It had also committed to partnerships with United Nations agencies to advocate for such causes as sanitation for all, access to toilets and an end to open defecation.

79. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Mexico) said that, in the context of the commitments undertaken pursuant to the 2030 Agenda, conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity had become essential. As such, his country gave the highest priority to promoting a transformative vision that acknowledged the link between the three dimensions of sustainable development and biodiversity. That link was a hub connecting key industries such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. His country would therefore host the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cancun in December 2016, together with the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, under the theme "Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Human Well-being".

80. The 2030 Agenda had placed development at the core of the work of the United Nations. Development was central to preventing conflicts through sustainable peace and disaster risk reduction, which his country would promote. In May 2017, Mexico would therefore host the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun to encourage States Members of the United Nations to transcend current management practices and address risks such as poverty, untrammelled urban growth and environmental degradation. His country was very concerned by the

devastating economic impact of disasters, which diverted essential resources that could otherwise be used for development. Challenges arising as a direct result of climate change, rapid urban growth and water use management could be resolved through building resilient, inclusive and engaged communities.

81. His country placed a high priority on combating desertification as an integral part of efforts to sustainably manage natural resources. It would continue to support plans to assist developing countries in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

82. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement called for particular attention to be directed towards small island developing States, which were especially threatened by climate change. In that regard, Mexico would continue to support the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and reaffirmed its commitment to the effective implementation of the agreed actions in the Samoa Pathway.

83. Mobilizing resources for sustainable development entailed international cooperation for development, which must be effective to maximize results. There must be periodic and timely feedback on planned support over the medium term, and the United Nations system should cooperate with other relevant forums such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

84. Lastly, Mexico was making progress in mitigating climate change and establishing itself as a model of energy efficiency by promoting clean energy, reducing electricity consumption and implementing energy efficiency measures over the short, medium and long term.

85. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that climate change intensity in his country was nearly three times higher than the global average owing to its geographical location, climate and specific weather features. While total emissions of greenhouse gases from Mongolia were very small compared with other countries, it aimed to cut them by 14 per cent by 2030. However, in order to meet such ambitious commitments, countries like Mongolia with limited capacities must have access to new technologies and financial aid through internationally agreed mechanisms.

86. In Mongolia, land, forests and water were threatened by climate change and human activities. Animal husbandry, overgrazing and poor crop cultivation practices had resulted in desertification, drought, land degradation and soil erosion, and the Government had applied measures to address those challenges in recent years. Rapid urbanization and the unplanned growth of cities had also brought about challenges such as unemployment, traffic congestion and air, water and soil pollution. His country was ready to engage in United Nations initiatives for sustainable cities and already enjoyed great potential in the area of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power. It also recognized the importance of the follow-up and review mechanisms for the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

87. **Ms. Picco** (Monaco) said that, in view of the consequences of plastic waste to marine environments and the fact that the Mediterranean Sea was one of the seas most polluted by microplastics, Monaco had striven to change modes of consumption through such measures as the recently introduced ban on non-reusable plastic bags. That policy was one example of the environmentally oriented approach of the Government, which was conducive to sustainable cities and public health.

88. Monaco had also demonstrated its dedication to sustainable transport, scientific research, and education on sustainable development through a series of policy initiatives, training programmes and institutions such as the Scientific Centre of Monaco, which had been operating since 1960. Her delegation fully supported the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14, and Monaco was promoting, through those same institutions, the role of science in the good stewardship of oceans, seas and marine resources. The Centre had, for instance, organized three workshops since 2010 on the socioeconomic impact of ocean acidification.

89. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that the millions of people around the world who continued to struggle for such basic necessities as food, water, shelter and sanitation, as well as the ever-increasing numbers of migrants and refugees, highlighted the imperative of meeting the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable in order to achieve sustainable development.

Recognizing that all dimensions of sustainable development must be integrated into national policies, his country had recently launched a major long-term plan, entitled Vision 2036, which would serve to guide it towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

90. However, actions at the national level needed to be complemented by a supportive global environment that appreciated the role of trade, finance, investment, technology and official development assistance. Botswana was a middle-income country, and its access to such assistance and to sources of concessional funding was therefore limited. That situation compounded its efforts to achieve sustainable development. In that regard, his delegation looked forward to the negotiations of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and was confident that the United Nations system would take into consideration the needs of countries in special situations, including African countries, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries.

91. Botswana recognized the far-reaching consequences of climate change for the achievement of sustainable development. Although extreme weather patterns had become the norm in many countries, and such challenges threatened development efforts, Botswana had incorporated climate-oriented planning into its policies and was working towards a comprehensive climate change strategy to complement the intended nationally determined contribution it had submitted in the context of the Paris Agreement.

92. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco) said that, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, the international community had established milestones for collective action on the greatest challenge of the present time. The 2030 Agenda would trigger the transformation of development models, which could only occur worldwide in a climate that fostered multilateral solutions. The Sustainable Development Goals must be integrated into national development strategies and public policy according to the distinctive features and development model of each country.

93. For its part, Morocco had based its economic and social policies on sustainable development supported by ambitious reforms. The adoption of the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2030 and a renewable energy strategy had strengthened that process. The firm commitment of Morocco to invest in sustainable development and a green economy had been further reinforced by the decision to obtain 52 per cent of its energy supply from renewable sources by 2030 and to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent by that date, in addition to shortly creating the largest solar power plant in the world.

94. The Government was also ensuring that sustainable development was integrated into sector-specific development strategies. Large projects, especially for infrastructure, such as the Industrial Acceleration Plan 2014-2020, the Green Morocco Plan for agricultural development, the Halieutis Plan for fisheries and Vision 2020 for tourism in Morocco, had incorporated an ecological dimension and had begun to bring about economic and social transformations in the Kingdom.

95. In July 2016, his country had participated in the voluntary review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council. The review, which demonstrated a national awareness of the strategic significance of the Goals, had been preceded by national consultations in Rabat on contextualizing the Goals.

96. However, the Goals could not be achieved without placing the fight against climate change at the centre of international action. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Marrakesh in November 2016, would be a test of multilateralism and provide an opportunity to make strides in controlling climate change. The international community should come to that Conference with the intention of taking fundamental decisions.

97. His country would spare no effort to ensure the success of the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference. To that end, the Conference would focus on the fulfilment of national pledges, strengthening climate change adaptation, technology transfer and the launch of specific initiatives, especially the mobilization of resources. Financing remained central to the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies of Member States. African

countries in particular had limited capacity to finance such policies, and, like landlocked countries and vulnerable countries, would require targeted and robust assistance. Morocco called on those States that had not yet ratified the Paris Agreement to do so.

98. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda had been a landmark in the history of the United Nations, and the focus must now be on its implementation. Advances made during the first months of implementation were encouraging. In that regard, General Assembly resolution 70/299 on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda was useful as a roadmap for implementation, clarifying important aspects that would be instrumental in planning the next sessions of the high-level political forum. Such aspects included the forum's annual themes, synchronization of its four-year cycle with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development and an in-depth discussion of the Goals from 2016 to 2019.

99. The fourth meeting of the high-level political forum, in which government officials and 1,500 civil society representatives had participated, had shown the commitment of the international community to sustainable development. The forum had become the main locus for multilateral discussions on sustainable development, and the lynchpin of the follow-up and review framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was noteworthy that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism had been established, and was operational, as one of the means for that implementation. His country welcomed the first proposal of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. As it currently held the chairmanship of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Brazil called for the involvement of all States Members of the United Nations and its agencies and programmes in the complex but crucial tasks ahead.

100. His country commended the 22 countries that had completed their voluntary national reviews during the high-level political forum in July 2016. Their presentations contained useful information on the adaptation of domestic policies and structures to the 2030 Agenda. The old paradigm of the Millennium Development Goals however had continued to prevail in some reviews, even though the 2030 Agenda was not directed exclusively at developing countries and all nations must fulfil the related commitments. The scope of the new development Agenda was not limited to social affairs: all elements of the three dimensions of sustainable development must be included.

101. While Brazil was proud to have ratified the Paris Agreement in September 2016, a long path still remained for its implementation and that of the 2030 Agenda. Bearing that in mind, the issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda but not currently covered by the Committee's agenda must continue to be discussed and the Committee's work must maintain the momentum towards concrete action.

102. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) said that while his country's sustainable development agenda was consistent with the 2030 Agenda, it had been established when the State was founded in 1973 and was enshrined in the five National Goals and eight Directive Principles in its Constitution. The principles of integral human development, equality, participation, sovereignty, self-reliance and environmental conservation had similarly been incorporated into the National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development.

103. National ownership, leadership, development priorities and plans guided the attainment of all Sustainable Development Goals in Papua New Guinea and therefore national capacities must be strengthened. In particular, his country would welcome development assistance focused on enhancing institutional and human resources development to collate and analyse statistics for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals.

104. Climate change was a nemesis of sustainable development and countries must work together to address its impacts. As an island nation, his country was vulnerable to rising sea levels, losses in biodiversity, droughts and storms. Addressing the adverse impacts of climate change was urgent and his country applauded the leadership of the international community in swiftly meeting the thresholds necessary for the Paris Agreement to enter into force. Countries that had not yet ratified that instrument were encouraged to do so promptly.

105. As global warming must be maintained beneath the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, high carbon emitters must work to fulfil their commitments. Full

implementation of the Sendai Framework was also important in that regard. Enhanced financial cooperation would also be required to support domestic efforts to build resilience and strengthen capacity. Given the ongoing difficulties many countries faced in accessing climate finance, it was paramount and urgent for the related procedures to be simplified. His Government had already taken a step in the right direction by signing an agreement with the Green Climate Fund on privileges and immunities in September 2016.

106. The oceans were an integral pillar of the 2030 Agenda: not only were they the world's largest carbon sink but they also served a vital economic and cultural role. In that context, Sustainable Development Goal 14 must be implemented to foster the health, productivity and resilience of the oceans and seas for the future.

107. **Mr. Chinyonga** (Zambia) said that his country placed a high premium on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as they were fundamental for inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, employment creation and welfare security. To that end, a conducive and supportive environment would be required, with holistic, equitable and forward-looking interventions, especially for least developed countries which had greater vulnerability to global economic downturns.

108. The Sustainable Development Goals must be integrated into national policies while balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development. The adoption of the Goals was timely, as his country was finalizing its Seventh National Development Plan to run from 2017 to 2021. Accordingly, Zambia would incorporate the Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063, among other instruments, into its development plans. Furthermore, an interdependent and holistic approach to development must be adopted and implementation of the 2030 Agenda must occur at the local, regional and national levels where links between cross-cutting priorities would be clearer. Stakeholders must be fully involved in the implementation process.

109. Climate-related challenges were impeding sustainable development and negatively impacting economic growth in his country through reduced crop yields. Weather patterns had changed, causing droughts and flooding and affecting food security. Low water levels were also impacting power generation and reducing the energy supply for productive sectors. Unless climate change was addressed, the 2030 Agenda could not be fully realized. Hence the need to bring together both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts.

110. His Government had signed the Paris Agreement in September 2016, having formulated the nationally determined contribution for its implementation and also having put in place a national policy on climate change. The entry into force of the Paris Agreement was a historic turning point in global efforts to address climate change, and the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference in November 2016 should expedite the implementation of the Agreement. Providing financial support to developing countries to implement their intended nationally determined contributions must be a priority at the Marrakesh Conference to achieve the goal of limiting climate warming to two degrees Celsius. Through collective implementation of the Paris Agreement, developing countries would foster climate resilience and transition towards low greenhouse gas emission development.

111. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that it was critical to include the three pillars of sustainable development in a holistic and balanced manner not only in national plans and policies but also within the United Nations system. The importance of timely, full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda could not be overemphasized in the context of the outcomes of all previous conferences on sustainable development, which must be linked with the Sustainable Development Goals. The mixed experience of implementing the Millennium Development Goals must be formative henceforth. A plan for the 2030 Agenda with adequate means of implementation should focus on the eradication of poverty and inequality, especially in countries in special situations.

112. Climate change represented a great challenge to development that had not only aggravated existing problems but had also made development costlier. Countries in special situations were the most affected by the impact of climate change and they required more international cooperation for their development. His country expressed solidarity with small island developing States and underscored the need to acknowledge the link between mountains and seas.

Mountainous countries continued to face problems such as avalanches, glacial outbursts, floods and landslides, severely affecting centuries-old unique mountain lifestyles. It was critical to save mountain ecosystems through the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which had already been ratified by his country.

113. Enhanced partnerships were needed for disaster risk reduction and building resilience. In that regard the Sendai Framework must be effectively implemented in a balanced manner in conjunction with the instruments that had recognized the special needs and circumstances of vulnerable countries. Capacity-building would be critical for countries in the South, and the earthquakes that had struck Nepal in 2015 had provided a new perspective on the meaning of local resilience, which should permeate all development efforts.

114. His country underscored the importance of clean, renewable energy and was eager to use its immense hydropower potential for the benefit of the South Asian region. After all, sustainable development would be achieved only when ways and means were made sustainable.

115. **Mr. Al-Hayani** (Iraq) said that even in the face of the decline in economic growth brought about by the vicious assault on Iraq by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), his country was looking into ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Under the Paris Agreement, the developed States were obligated to help more vulnerable States address the effects of climate change. The measures taken by some members of the international community towards achieving the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels were therefore welcome.

116. Iraq had an ambitious plan to reduce emissions by 14 per cent by the year 2035, and had been an early adopter of clean energy, carbon management and the expansion of green spaces. It was also planning to introduce petroleum gas for automobiles and convert some of its electricity plants into combined-cycle plants. However, given current security concerns, implementation of such plans was secondary to the imperative of fighting ISIL. As it was, Iraq had been responsible for less than 0.2 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2011. Addressing climate change would require a collective international effort based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. His country looked forward to taking part in the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference in November 2016.

117. **Ms. Sigurdardottir** (Iceland) said that the 2030 Agenda had been a major achievement, and that the Sustainable Development Goals would be incorporated into her country's new policy on international development cooperation for the period 2017 to 2021, which was presently being drafted. In that context, her country was focusing on three key areas: the development of social infrastructure, the sustainable use of natural resources and work towards peace, with humanitarian assistance playing a key role. Gender equality and environmental sustainability were also important cross-cutting issues that had been taken into account.

118. Her country recognized the universal, interlinked nature of all of the Sustainable Development Goals and aimed to achieve each one. Nonetheless, there were four priority areas for Iceland. First, land restoration was a natural priority, as legislation to halt soil erosion had been adopted over the previous century, and degradation had been successfully halted in many areas. That know-how had begun to be transferred to developing countries in 2010 through the Land Restoration Training Programme of the United Nations University. Iceland and Namibia had led a Group of Friends on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. Her delegation also wished to stress the importance of reaching Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 on a land-degradation neutral world by 2030. That would speed the ability of land-dependent populations to reach other Sustainable Development Goal targets pertaining to food, water and energy supplies, poverty eradication and the empowerment of women and girls.

119. Second, sustainable use of marine resources through science-based management remained a backbone of her country's economy and a clear focus of its foreign policy. Iceland had shared its expertise for almost 20 years through the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme and fully supported the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 on oceans. Good coordination was of paramount importance between different United

Nations oceans-related processes, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant parts of the Secretariat, to ensure consistency in supporting implementation, follow-up and review for Goal 14.

120. Third, her country placed great importance on access to clean and renewable energy in tackling the climate challenge and combating poverty. Iceland had begun its green energy transition decades earlier and continued to assist other countries, including through the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme. Renewable energy was increasingly competitive with traditional energy sources, and therefore cooperation must be strengthened to achieve universal access to modern energy services. Her country was cooperating with different actors in that field, including the World Bank and Sustainable Energy for All.

121. Fourth, gender equality and women's human rights must be mainstreamed into all sustainable development discussions and actions. The full and meaningful participation and representation of women in all endeavours was a prerequisite to the success of the 2030 Agenda. In that context, her country had particularly focused on engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality. It was a point of pride that the youngest member of the United Nations University in Iceland was dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries and post-conflict societies through research and education.

122. **Mr. Al-Zaabi** (United Arab Emirates) said that the United Arab Emirates had incorporated the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals into its Vision 2021 plan, which involved the private sector in all aspects of the sustainable development process. His country had established a new fund to support renewable energy projects in small island developing States in the Caribbean. In October 2016, his Government would be hosting the fourteenth session of the global round table for the United Nations Environment Programme finance initiative, and, in January 2017, it would once again be hosting Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, which would include an eco-waste summit and the award of the Zayed Future Energy Prize.

123. Stressing the importance of involving youth in the sustainable development agenda, particularly given the rise in unemployment and the spread of extremist ideologies, he said that the newly appointed Minister for Youth Affairs had convened a national dialogue on youth.

124. Infrastructure development in the United Arab Emirates had greatly improved sanitation, roads and communications, laying the groundwork for economic diversification and sustainability. He invited delegates to visit his Government's official portal for more information.

125. **Mr. Annakou** (Libya) said that effective means of implementation were needed to turn words into actions. Above all, that meant adequate financing. The developed States needed to fulfil their obligations with respect to official development assistance, technology transfer, global partnerships and involvement of the private sector.

126. Perhaps the greatest challenge to development was to be found in threats to security. Confronting terrorism needed to go beyond the surface manifestations and address the root causes with a multifaceted economic, political, cultural, social and security approach. His country was undergoing a difficult transitional stage during which it needed the assistance of friendly States to restore security and stability. In particular, it needed the help of its neighbours to secure shared borders. Developed States that were being affected by the waves of illegal immigration across the Mediterranean Sea had an interest in stemming the flow at the source by enabling development in the countries of origin.

127. Finally, he urged the countries into which Libyan assets had been smuggled under the previous regime to assist his Government in retrieving them so that they could be put to use in advancing development plans for Libya.

128. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand) said that his country supported the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and continued to advocate strongly on issues surrounding small island developing States; significant steps had been taken in recognition of their development priorities between 2014 and 2016. The successful third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia in 2014, had

highlighted the challenges and opportunities they faced. An international political commitment to sustainable development had been secured and the Samoa Pathway, containing a 10-year agenda, had been confirmed. That Conference had highlighted the issues critical to the sustainable development of small island developing States, with environmental issues and the impact of climate change strongly to the fore.

129. Since the Apia Conference, many priority issues of small island developing States had been recognized within international agreements, which highlighted their financing challenges and incorporated climate change, oceans and energy. His country had ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and was committed to supporting clean, affordable and renewable energy.

130. In June 2016, New Zealand and the European Union had co-hosted the Pacific Energy Conference, during which donors had committed over $690 million for sustainable energy projects in the Pacific. New Zealand and the European Union had also issued a Joint Declaration of Cooperation on a Pacific Partnership for Sustainable Energy, clearly signalling a commitment to close cooperation on renewable energy in the region. His country attached importance to tangible outcomes from those agreements and tracking implementation without excessive bureaucracy that could otherwise overwhelm small island developing States' systems. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals and Samoa Pathway must be integrated into local planning frameworks that took country-level priorities into account. Indicators that developing countries could measure and simple, nimble and effective United Nations review mechanisms were needed.

131. New Zealand supported the joint study under way by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Development Programme into small island developing States' financing challenges, which should conclude by mid-2017. His country took seriously the commitment to leave no one behind and would continue actively and constructively raising the unique challenges faced by small island developing States and delivering tangible results.

132. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that her country welcomed the efforts of the United Nations system to effectively mainstream the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as a means of assisting Member States with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals would require the structural causes of poverty and inequality to be addressed. Accordingly, Armenia had revisited its poverty reduction strategy to place greater focus on the development of human capital.

133. Enhancing the potential to implement new skills and solutions would be critical in order to implement the ambitious Agenda. In co-creating development solutions, her country continued to expand its reach among young innovators and social entrepreneurs in order to enhance citizen engagement, building upon the progress of several projects implemented with development partners. Through better use of the potential of the private sector, a fundamental difference could be made to improve access to quality education and tackle financial illiteracy, ensuring increased access to banking and finance for youth and facilitating better business planning. The younger generation had been enhancing its partnership with various stakeholders, including the diaspora fellows, and was capitalizing on education and innovation-oriented pilot projects.

134. Financing for development was also important in order to better mobilize and more effectively use both financial and non-financial resources. While public finance remained the major source of development funding, its role was evolving and new forms of blended government and donor-raised money were being increasingly explored to increase leveraging from the private sector, especially in lower-middle income countries. Addressing the issue of project bankability and ensuring public-private financing solutions would be critical to delivering on the sustainable development commitments. Existing external and local resources must be properly used to leverage comparative advantage and boost productive capacity and employment. Her country supported discussions on new themes and solutions targeting better use of private sector potential and public-private partnerships in order to enhance bankability, entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic sectors.

135. As the pillars of development, human rights, humanitarian assistance, peace and security must be drawn together in a comprehensive, forward-looking strategy to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. There was considerable evidence of a severe humanitarian crisis amidst the turbulence in many world regions and a pressing need to improve humanitarian coordination and response. The system must be adaptable and able to deliver adequate responses, a priority that must be urgently assessed against the backdrop of a detrimental decrease in resources and the unprecedented rise of humanitarian challenges.

136. The global displacement crisis continued to cause risks and instabilities requiring a collective global response, with better cooperation in areas such as border management, migration and the fight against human trafficking. Armenia was deeply concerned and closely following the ongoing refugee crisis; over 20,000 displaced persons had sought protection there in recent years and it was the third largest recipient of Syrian refugees per capita in Europe. Facilitated integration and settlement programmes for the displaced continued to be implemented and her country duly acknowledged the invaluable role of international institutions, the non-governmental sector and diaspora organizations for the support provided to refugees.

137. It would be critical to more closely examine the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in addressing the humanitarian-development nexus, as they were often better informed about local circumstances and their own resources and financing. To improve the quality of response, the United Nations system must continue to prioritize the advancement of its normative and operational capacity with a view to strengthening and adapting its preventive function and building greater resilience. Field missions remained important for detecting deteriorating situations and alerting the Organization to act; its reputation was judged not by its words but by the protection delivered on the ground.

138. The role of the United Nations and the high-level political forum would be central to reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Reliable, relevant and valid data for measuring progress must be available for any follow-up and review mechanism to succeed, and therefore the role of national statistical agencies would be of the utmost importance. Similarly, international cooperation must be strengthened to improve statistical capacity.

139. Lastly, in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, development must be inclusive and diversity must be viewed as a source of strength, as policies of exclusion and discrimination undermined the sustainability of economic and social development. A commitment to deliver on a global partnership by all would ensure structural transformations for countries with specific developmental needs.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.